this competition, we have been officially requested to contradict a report that the committee have already fixed upon an architect to be employed. Some members of the committee manifest a great desire that this competition should be conducted and decided in the fairest and most satisfactory manner. Let us urge upon them two important points:—First, that they exhibit the designs for a certain time *before* coming to a decision, and, secondly, that one or more professional men of ability and integrity be called in to assist them in the examination and selection.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Excavations for Antiquities figuring on the French Budget.—The Home Minister at Paris has issued a decision to the effect, that excavations, made for the sake of searching after ancient ruins, are to be henceforth classed amongst the works of *communal utility*, and be, therefore, defrayed (assisted) from the fund of four millions of francs, which the minister is charged to distribute amongst the parishes (*communes*), which will have provided workshops, or other establishments, for the occupation of poor people. In consequence thereof, some excavations have been recently made at Limny, near Serrière (*Loire*), when, at a depth of only 60 centimètres, a splendid public road, and three deep artificial wells were found; the waters of which, however, had dried up, and been diverted by the lapse of twenty centuries. Other proprietors, also, intend to dig in a place where a large *souterain* bids fair for further discoveries. On the making of a new road, two bronze statuettes have been found, which were bought by a Lyons antiquary for 1,800 francs. Numerous silver coins, also, here found, promise a new mine of antiquarian treasure.

Oil Lighting of Paris.—It would seem incredible, but is still so, that only from the 1st of March next, all the public thoroughfares of Paris will be lighted with gas. In the Quartier St. Joseph, for example, oil is still the lighting medium.

The Gothic Church of Ste. Clotilde, at Paris.—Contest between two Systems of Architecture.—Although the love for the structures of the *latter* part of the middle ages is decidedly on the wane in France—those giants of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries are deservedly, retaining a large portion of art-favour; a fact best proved by the erection of the above cathedral, decreed by the municipality of Paris, to whom, certainly (with Mr. Arago at their head) retrograde principles cannot be reproached. At this the *Academy* seems to have taken a little umbrage, as will appear from the following utterance, made through the medium of their *Secrétaire perpetuel*, Mr. Raoul Rochette:—"If Gothic architecture—*conjointly* with painting and sculpture, as necessary assistants, under those previous circumstances which have created this *style*—has found its death (?); shall we attempt, in our days, to resuscitate what has ceased to exist for the last four centuries? But, we ask, where are the elements of such unheard-of, in the annals of art resuscitation? Where is, amidst the conditions and circumstances of our present social life, any ground or necessity for so doing? Where is that mighty arm, which may pull back a whole nation to the state of four hundred years previous existence? The Academy cannot believe in those miracles of human will, which would have to triumph over the whole nature of things—and necessarily encroach upon all the æsthetic wants, usages, and impulses of society. She may well admit that a Gothic church or castle may be built for whim or *ennui's* sake, although an *administrative* predilection of the kind would be always a hazardous experiment; firmly convinced, moreover, that a reversion to antiquated types would remain effectless as it is groundless. The Academy think that the *new Gothic*, which has to be as much as possible adapted to the taste of the day—will never exercise the effect of the ancient and real Gothic, sprung from other circumstances, artwants, and art-tendencies; and that the people, however affectionate to the former, would remain always cold and feelingless, at the sight of these plagiates and counterfeits of something quite antiquated and exploded."

Monument to the Viceroy of Hungary.—The members of Parliament for the county of Pesth have met, and unanimously voted the erection of a monument to H. R. H. the late Prince Joseph—the founder of the Hungarian Museum, the Academy of Sciences, &c. Mr. Kossuth, the leader of opposition, was the mover, and alluded to the difficult task the late Viceroy had to effect any desired improvement.

Work on the Walhalla.—The large printing firm of Messrs. Cotta, at Munich, have undertaken a work, shortly to be published, which will comprise exact copies of those marble busts and statues of great Germans, contained in the above building, on the banks of the Danube. The images of those great men (some of them of colossal size) may be considered the most authentic, as in cases, where no coeval pictures were at hand, even the seals appended to charters, &c., were called into aid. Where even these were wanting, a tablet was, of course, the only thing available to preserve a great memory. It is known that the Walhalla was one of the objects which occupied even the youthful years of King Louis of Bavaria, on which account he corresponded with Mr. Johannes Müller and others. It is to be regretted, that the illustrations are to be merely on wood, distributed within the pages of the text.

The Winckelmann Monument—Programme.—The great merits of this original and striking art-critic are being every day more appreciated in Germany, as well as in France—and a committee has been formed at Berlin, to erect a statue at his native place Stendal. It comprises the names of Tölken, Olfers (director-general of the Royal Museums), Professor Rauch and Professor Wichman, whose model of the statue attracted much attention at the late art-exhibition at Berlin, and who has made a present of it to the committee, and H. M. the King, has ordered that the metal for the founding should be supplied from the stores of state. The programme says—that "the committee appeal to the public (*Welt*) *instructed* by Winckelmann's *reforms* in the whole province of art-science, and by his then untried and unequalled introduction of *spirit* and mind in the viewing and appreciating of all the relics of classic antiquity."

Murillo's paralytic at the Piscina.—Field Marshall Soult has sold this splendid specimen of art, being one of the great collection he *made* in Spain, for the sum of 160,000 fr., it is said to some English collector. The French duly blame the general for this questionable deed, reminding him, that he did surely not give so *much* for it, and that it would have been better to leave a picture acquired by dint of national prowess to the National Gallery of his country.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

PLANS and specifications have been ordered to be prepared for the erection of a new barrack adjoining Haslar Hospital, at Gosport, for occupation by the Portsmouth Division of the Royal Marines.——The new public bridge to cross the river Thame at Ashton-under-Lyne has been let,—the stone-work to Mr. Lawton, and the iron-work to Messrs. Gimson, Yates, and Ainsworth, of Staley. The bridge will be 50 feet span, and 30 feet wide, and will have two ornamental Lamps.——The new church erected at Cradley-heath, near Dudley, was to be consecrated on the 22nd instant.——For a new church at Lytham, Mr. Talbot Clifton has given the site, with 500*l.* towards the erection.——Another experiment to prove the possibility of extinguishing fires by means of jets of water from street mains without the aid of fire-engines has been tried at Liverpool by the Harrington Water-works Company, in presence of the Government Commissioners of Inquiry relative to the supply of water to the town. The result is said to have been highly satisfactory. "The spot selected," says the *Mail*, "was by no means the most favourable—being at the top of Lord-street, and close to the east end of St. George's Church, a site of considerably more elevation than many of the mercantile portions of the town. Short lengths of hose, with pipes of 7-8ths of an inch in the nozzle, were attached to a stand pipe from the main, and from one up to four of these branches were played for upwards of an hour, the addition of one, two, or three, to the first, appearing to make little or no difference in the respective power of any of them. The quantity of water which they projected was very great and continuous. It completely lashed the east end of the church, and not only went clear over the blockings above the cornice, and on to the roof in heavy volume, but at times ascended to the top of the flag-staff, a height, we should think, little, if at all, short of eighty feet. A great number of persons were gratified by witnessing the experiment, albeit many of them were pretty well drenched by the respective jets being dashed into heavy showers by the force of a strongish northerly wind, which was rather against the experiment. One of the pipes also played clear over a lofty house on the south side of Lord-street. The plan, which combines hydraulic pressure with engine power, is decidedly much more effective than hand-worked engines, and if adopted will afford great and rapid protection to property in cases of fire—especially the lower parts of the town, and that, too, with a large saving of expense."——The Cambley National Schools, says the *Doncaster Gazette*, are nearly completed. The whole erections are in the Tudor style of architecture, and in the shape of the letter T. The exterior is built of Everton brick and white stock brick from Newport. The windows have stone mullions with diamond panes, while portions of the exterior walls are ornamented with black headers; and the roof is covered with blue slate. The schools are capable of accommodating nearly 200 scholars. The length within the walls is 90 feet 9 inches, and the width 20 feet, with a partition between the boys' school and that of the girls. These are approached by separate porches, containing closets for cloaks and coats. There are dwelling-houses on each side of the building for the master and the mistress, and built in a corresponding style with other portions of the edifice. The architect is Mr. S. S. Teulon, of London; and the builders Messrs. Lister and Son, of Doncaster.—— The foundation-stone of the new townhall of Doncaster was laid, in French-gate, on the day appointed, namely, Monday week.——The bridge across the Tees, at Stockton, is to be widened, both carriage road and footpath being too narrow. The fund to be raised for the purpose appears to amount to 1,400*l.*——The surveying officers have made their inquiries at Wakefield as to the proposed new market hall. The design is not so much to erect expensive buildings as to open up a central area in "one of the most disgraceful and filthy" parts of the town, full of pig-styes, slaughter-houses, chandlers' factories, &c., and notoriously unhealthy. The expense of substituting such a paved area with sheds, for the present merely four-pillared market cross, with drainage, is estimated at 16,000*l.* The surveyors, however, thought that sufficient provision was not made, or regard had, to sanative improvements in such a locality, which they had examined, and found to be exceedingly ill-drained and ventilated. It was therefore very properly suggested, that further attention should be given to this important subject. The Exchange Buildings in the middle of the town at present form the focus of the corn trade——A number of turn-out sawyers, lately in the employment of Messrs. Birtwistle, joiners and builders at Bury, in Lancashire, last week waited upon that firm, and made the following propose:—They would return to their work if Messrs. Birtwistle would discharge all the new hands, and pay 5*l.* to the sawyer's union for using a quantity of saw-mill timber.—The proposal was declined. A saw-mill has been purchased at Birkenhead, and as soon as the weather will permit, preparations will be commenced for the necessary buildings.——The town council of Newcastle have determined on erecting baths and washhouses for the poor of that town. See also "The Gas Movement."

VENTILATION OF STABLES.—Horses are liable to consumption when kept in badly-ventilated stables; and we are informed by Mr. Edwin Chadwick that a discovery was only lately made as to the effect of defective ventilation on the cavalry horses in some of the Government barracks in England; and it is stated that a saving of several thousand pounds per annum was effected by an easy improvement of the ventilation of the barracks near the metropolis.

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org